

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-04 LAB-01 SIL-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01

ACDA-05 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /074 W

----- 050440

R 191010Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5753

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, ELAB, GW

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT LEADERS REACT TO CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE MITBESTIMMUNG INITIATIVE

REF: BONN 01320, 04004, 06261, 10244, 06262, 15676,
16237, 16036, 16346

SUMMARY: DGB PRESIDENT VETTER'S CRITICISM OF THE
AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR OPPOSING MITBESTIMMUNG
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SET OFF A CHAIN REACTION. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, FOREIGN

MINISTER GENSCHER, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN BOELLING,
FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN VON PACHELBEL AND SEVERAL
BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES HAVE JOINED THE DISCUSSION. END
SUMMARY

1. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON OCTOBER 16, GOVERNMENT
SPOKESMAN KLAUS BOELLING QUOTED CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT
AS HAVING SAID TO THE SPD FRAKTION THAT THE ACTIONS
OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (IN OPPOSING
MITBESTIMMUNG) WERE "NOT ESPECIALLY FORTUNATE." DIE
WELT REPORTS THAT BOELLING INTERPRETED THE CHAN-
CELLOR'S REMARKS TO MEAN THAT THE CHANCELLOR FOUND
THE INITIATIVE OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMING
CLOSE TO INTERFERING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE
FRG. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION IF THE GOVERN-
MENT SHARES THE OPINION OF DGB PRESIDENT VETTER THAT THE
CHAMBER'S ACTIONS REPRESENTED AN INTERFERENCE IN
GERMAN LEGISLATION, BOELLING SAID, "THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT IN ANY CASE IS CONVINCED THAT THE CO-
DETERMINATION REGULATION WHICH IT HAS PREPARED IS
CONSTITUTIONAL."

2. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ON THE WENGLER STUDY,
FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN VON PACHELBEL SAID, "I ONLY
KNOW THAT IT IS IN THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE AND THAT
IT HAS BEEN PASSED TO THE BUNDESTAG FRAKTIONEN.
COMMENTING ON THE DIPLOMATIC ASPECTS OF THE MATTER,
VON PACHELBEL SAID THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS NEITHER BEEN
CONTACTED NOR DOES IT EXPECT TO BE CONTACTED SINCE
"WE CONSIDER IT (THE WENGLER STUDY) TO BE
THE PRIVATE OPINION OF A PRIVATE INSTITUTION AND WE
THEREFORE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANYONE WILL ASK THE
FOREIGN OFFICE FOR A RESPONSE." VON PACHELBEL
CONTINUED SAYING, "FOR US IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC ONE
THING IS ABSOLUTELY

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L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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CLEAR, CONCLUDED TREATIES SHALL BE HONORED AND ADHERED
TO. NO DOUBT HAS BEEN RAISED BY ANY SIDE THAT THIS
PRINCIPLE COULD BE PUT INTO QUESTION." CON-

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TINUED VON PACHELBEL, "IT ALSO SEEMS TO BE THE
OPINION OF THE US GOVERNMENT, FOR WHICH I CANNOT SPEAK,
BUT ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON TODAY,
APPARENTLY THE US GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO INTER-
FERE IN AN ISSUE WHICH IS EXCLUSIVELY A RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE."

3. GENSCHER WAS ALSO DRAWN INTO THE ISSUE. DIE WELT
QUOTES THE FOREIGN MINISTER AS SAYING THAT A NEW
CODETERMINATION LAW WOULD NOT LEAD TO WITHDRAWAL OF

CAPITAL FROM THE FRG. "I CANNOT IMAGINE ANY COUNTRY IN WHICH IT WOULD BE MORE PROFITABLE TO INVEST TODAY," HE SAID. GENSCHER REPORTEDLY LABELED THE CRITICISM AS OBJECTIVELY UNFOUNDED AND ADDED THAT "CRITICISM OF A PRIVATE GROUP MUST NOT LEAD TO CRITICISM OF A STATE CLOSELY AND AMICABLY ALLIED WITH US."

4. SOUNDING SOMEWHAT LIKE VETTER, NORBERT BLUEM, CDU, REPORTEDLY LABELED THE CHAMBER'S ACTION AS "INTOLERABLE INTERFERENCE." DR. FRIEDHELM FARTHMAN, SPD, LEADER OF THE DGB INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SCIENCE, SAID, "I FIND IT SCANDALOUS THAT A FOREIGN STATE, EVEN THE US, ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE THE INTERNAL POLITICAL PROCESSES WITH EXPERT OPINIONS AND STUDIES."

5. COMMENT: THE HIGH LEVEL OF PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE EFFORTS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ILLUSTRATES THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MITBESTIMMUNG TO GERMAN LEADERS AND THEIR SENSITIVITY TO PRESSURE WHILE THEY ARE TRYING TO MAKE DECISIONS ON ITS FUTURE. END COMMENT
HILLENBRAND

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